Cup.21.g.27/59

*London, May* 14, 1782.

SIR,

I TAKE the liberty of ſubmitting to your ſerious attention the *Plan* of *National Defence* lately ſuggeſted by government, compared with a *different* plan now approved, though ſubject to reviſion, by a *Company of Loyal Engliſhmen*, of which I have the honour to be One. You will inſtantly ſee, that the *firſt* plan was nobly conceived by ſome great mind, and intended for the nobleſt purpoſes; but that, in the *detail*, it appears to be *innovating*, harſh, unconſtitutional, and big with alarming conſequences; too *expenſive* for the treaſury, who have no treaſures to laviſh, and too *diſtruſtful* of a generous and ſpirited people, who would *vigorouſly ſupport* a government that *ſincerely confided* in them. The *ſecond* plan you will find (and we pledge our honours to prove) *already ſanctioned*, and even *required*, by Law, agreeable to the Conſtitution, and calculated to preſerve it; not too expenſive to *real* patriots, who will hardly be niggards at ſuch a moment as this; and not at all dangerous to ſo wiſe and juſt a government as the preſent. If nothing can raiſe a manly ſpirit, and excite a liberal emulation, in *Engliſh* gentlemen, yeomen, and traders, but the actual deſcent of *three united armies* on our coaſts, they will *then* vainly ſolicit that protection for their houſes and families, which they *now* have in their own hands, on a glorious invitation from the Firſt and Beſt of Magiſtrates. I am, &c.

A VOLUNTEER.

*P. S.* Give me leave to obſerve, that the Lords-lieutenants, as ſuch, have no more to do with this great buſineſs than the bench of Biſhops.

HEADS of a PLAN for raiſing Corps in ſeveral principal Towns in Great Britain, incloſed in a Letter from the Earl of SHELBURNE to the CHIEF MAGISTRATES of ſeveral Cities and Towns.

1ſt. THE principal towns in Great Britain to furniſh one or more battalions each, or a certain number of companies each, in proportion to their ſize and number of inhabitants.

2d. The officers to be appointed from among the gentlemen of the neighbourhood, or the inhabitants of the ſaid towns, either by commiſſion from his Majeſty, or from the Lord Lieutenant of the County, upon the recommendation of the Chief Magiſtrate of the town in which the Corps are raiſed.

3d. They are to be poſſeſſed of ſome certain eſtate in land or money, in proportion to their rank.

4th. An Adjutant or Town Major in each town to be appointed by his Majeſty.

5th. A proper number of ſerjeants and corporals from the army to be appointed for the corps in each town, in proportion to their numbers.

6th. The ſaid Serjeants and Corporals as well as the Adjutant, or Town-Major, to be in the Government pay.

7th. The men to exerciſe frequently, either in battalions, or by companies, on Sundays, and on Holidays, and alſo after their work is over in the evenings.

8th. Arms, accoutrements, and ammunition, to be furniſhed at the expenſe of Government, if required.

9th. Proper magazines, or ſtorehouſes, to be choſen or erected in each town, for keeping the ſaid arms, &c.

10th. The arms and accoutrements to be delivered out at times of exerciſe only, and to be returned into the ſtorehouſes as ſoon as the exerciſe is finiſhed.

11th. The Adjutant, or Town-Major, to be always preſent at exerciſe, and to ſee that the men afterwards march regularly, and lodge their arms in the ſtorehouſes.

12th. Proper penalties to be inflicted on ſuch as abſent themſelves from exerciſe, as alſo for diſobedience of orders, inſolence to their officers, and other diſorderly behaviour.

13th. The above corps not to be obliged, on any account, or by any authority whatever, to move from their reſpective towns, except in times of actual invaſion or rebellion.

14th. His Majeſty ſhall then have power to order the ſaid corps to march to any part of Great Britain, as his ſervice may require.

15th. They are on ſuch occaſions to act either ſeparately, or in conjunction with his Majeſty's regular forces, and be under the Command of ſuch General Officers as his Majeſty ſhall think proper to appoint.

16th. Both officers and men to receive full pay as his Majeſty's other regiments of foot from the day of their march, and as long as they ſhall continue on ſervice out of their towns.

17th. They are to be ſubject to military diſcipline, in the ſame manner as his Majeſty's regular forces, during the ſaid time of their being called out, and receiving government pay.

18th. All officers who ſhould be diſabled in actual ſervice to be entitled to half-pay, and all non commiſſioned Officers and private men diſabled, to receive the benefit of Chelſea hoſpital.

19th. The widows of officers killed in the ſervice to have a penſion for life.

20th. The time of ſervice to be named.

SKETCH of a PLAN for raiſing a Conſtitutional Force in the Towns, Cities, and Counties of *Great Britain*; being an Anſwer, article by article, to the Plan annexed.

1ſt. AGREED, *with this addition*—And other Battalions, or Companies, to be alſo *voluntarily* formed out of *the Hundreds, Tythings*, and *Hamlets, of each county*, in proportion to its extent and populouſneſs.

2d. The *Officers*, and, in ſome companies, the *men*, to enroll themſelves, from among the *Gentry, Yeomanry*, and *Subſtantial Houſeholders*, and the Officers to be commiſſioned reſpectively by *the High Sheriff*, and *Chief Magiſtrate*, of each *county* and *town*.

3d. The *ranks* of the Officers to be proportioned to their *contributions* to a fund raiſed for purpoſes mentioned in ſubſequent articles.

4th. An Adjutant or Town Major in each *county* or *town*, to be *elected by the Officers*.

5th. *Agreed*, for the purpoſe of *drilling* the men, until a certain number of the *volunteers* can be qualified to act as Serjeants and Corporals.

6th. The ſaid Drill-Serjeants and Corporals *from the army* to *continue* in the pay of government; but the Adjutants and Town majors to be paid, *if they deſire pay*, out of a *fund* voluntarily raiſed for that purpoſe in the ſeveral counties and towns.

7th. Agreed.

8th. Arms, Accoutrements, and Ammunition, to be furniſhed at the expenſe of *the counties and towns, if required*; or of the *officers*, if they are generouſly diſpoſed.

9th. The ſaid arms, &c. to be kept by each man, in *his own houſe*, for his *legal* protection.

10th. Rejected.

11th. The *officers* to take care, after exerciſe, that the men march regularly, and return home with their arms.

12th. Agreed, *with this addition*—A ſet of *Laws*, or *Articles*, to be drawn up by the Officers, and *ſubſcribed* or *openly conſented to* by the men, *after a diſtinct reading and explanation of each article*. "Conſenſus facit Legem."

13th. Agreed, the words *counties or* being inſerted after the word *reſpective*.

14th. The *high ſheriff* of each *county*, and *chief magiſtrate* of each *town*, ſhall then (on due notice from government) have power to order the ſaid corps to march to any part of *Great Britain*, as the *publick* ſervice may require.

15th. Agreed, in caſe of *actual invaſion*; but in *riots* the *magiſtrates* to call out their reſpective *corps*: and, as to *rebellion*, or *civil* war, (which GOD avert!) no ſpecifick proviſions can be made for ſo dreadful and improbable an event.

16th. The counties and towns to pay the men *who require it*; but ſuch, as enroll themſelves *without* pay, to wear ſome mark of diſtinction, and the officers to ſerve at *their own* expenſe.

17th. Agreed, in caſe of *actual invaſion* only; but the words, *and receiving government pay*, to be omitted.

18th. Officers diſabled in actual ſervice to be rewarded by a *new order* (as a ſtar and riband, *orange-coloured* or mixed) or by an *elogium proclaimed* and *recorded* by the *ſheriffs* of their ſeveral *counties*, or the *chief magiſtrates* of their corporate *towns*; and the men to receive a comfortable ſubſiſtence at their own homes, with a fixed *annuity for life* out of the voluntary fund.

19th. The *widows* and *children* of Officers and Men killed in the ſervice *againſt invaders* to have alſo *penſions for life*.

20th. The companies called out as above to be diſcharged *ipſo facto*, as ſoon as the *invaders* are *repelled*, or the *particular ſervice terminated*.

*A Company of* LOYAL ENGLISH GENTLEMEN.